the Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, based on their preliminary assessment, 450 human lives in Bihar and 216 human lives in Uttar Pradesh have been lost due to heavy rains/floods during 2007.

The execution of the rescue and relief measures in the event of natural disaster is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The distribution of relief on the ground is made by the concerned State. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support.

The State Governments have taken necessary rescue and relief operations in the affected areas which include evacuation of people to safer places, operation of relief camps, cattle camps and providing essential commodities *viz.* readymade food, wheat, rice, chura, Gur, salt, kerosene oil, shelter material like polythene sheets, etc. The State Governments also took necessary steps to prevent outbreak of any epidemic in the flood affected areas.

For execution of relief operations, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State Government, which is contributed by the Government of India and the concerned State Government in the ratio of 3:1. The State Level Committee, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the concerned State, is fully empowered to operate the CRF in accordance with the extant items and norms approved by the Government of India. These norms *inter-alia* provide for assistance to the affected persons in the form of *ex-gratia* payment to families of deceased persons, gratuitous relief of families in dire need of immediate sustenance after a calamity (who have no food reserve, or whose food reserves have been wiped out in a calamity and who have no other immediate means of support), agricultural inputs subsidy for damage caused to crops, assistance for repair of houses, assistance for generation of relief employment, assistance for loss of animals, assistance for feed and fodder.

Joint task force for tackling naxalism

1744. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a comprehensive policy to tackle naxalism in the country;

(b) whether Government has a joint task force comprising of Central and State Police personnel to tackle and stop the spread on naxalism;

(c) if not, does Government propose to introduce a law and constitute a joint task force to tackle naxalism in the country; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Government's policy is to address the naxalite problem in a holistic manner, on the security, development and public perception management fronts. Central Government is supplementing the efforts and resources of the State Governments through a variety of measures, including deployment of Central Para Military Forces which work under the command of the

State Governments concerned, strengthening of the local Police and Intelligence agencies through the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces, provision of financial assistance through the Scheme of Security Related Expenditure, sharing of Intelligence and bringing about inter-State coordination.

State Governments share intelligence and conduct need-based inter-State joint police operations against naxalites. Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) have also been brought into effect for coordinated inter-State action. At the Central level, a Task Force under Special Secretary (Internal Security), consisting of officers of Intelligence agencies, Central Para Military Forces and concerned State Police Forces, has also been set up to bring about coordination between authorities of different States as may be necessary.

Bomb blasts in the country

1745. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bomb blast incidents occurred in different parts of the country during the current year 2007;

(b) the details of loss of life and property caused by bomb blasts in the country during the last six months; and

(c) the details of the compensation/*ex-gratia* payments made by Government as well as the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Upto July 31, 2007 there had been 205 bomb blasts incidents mainly in Jammu and Kashmir, North-Eastern States and Naxal affected States, in which a total of 195 security forces and civilians lost their lives. The figures in terms of financial losses due to bomb blasts in the country are not centrally maintained.

(c) The State Government generally announce and pay compensation/ex-gratia amounts to the victims of terrorist activities. Details of compensation/ex-gratia paid by various State Governments to victims of each such incident are not centrally maintained. The Central Government, however, reimburses to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, North-Eastern States and naxal affected States towards the expenditure incurred by them for this purpose. In the case of such incidents in Railways, the Ministry of Railways makes *ex-gratia* payments apart from the claims as decided by the Railways Claim Tribunal.

Violence against non-Assamese people in Assam

†1746. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the terrorist organizations in Assam have made it their aim to kill non-Assamese people;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.